EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 11.9.2026
COM(2026) 454 final

ANNEX

ANNEX

to the

Recommendation for a Council Decision

authorising participation in the negotiations for an international agreement or other instrument to replace the International Tropical Timber Agreement

ADDENDUM

ADDENDUM

DIRECTIVES FOR THE NEGOTIATION OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER AGREEMENT

1. The Commission, on behalf of the European Union, shall endeavour to achieve a comprehensive negotiated outcome, which encompasses the objectives and principles outlined below.

2. General

The new Agreement should set an international framework and institution for its Parties to promote international trade in tropical timber from sustainably managed and legally harvested forests, diversification of the products concerned, market transparency and the sustainable management of tropical timber producing forests.

3. Mandate and nomenclature

The scope of the new Agreement should be identical or similar to the scope of ITTA 2006. Additions to the scope should be well justified and avoid as much as possible duplication with other international instruments or processes.

The new Agreement should affirm ITTO’s function as an international framework for facilitating, supporting and promoting trade in tropical timber from sustainably managed and legally harvested forests, as well as related market transparency.

The new Agreement needs to ensure ITTO's contribution to the global forest agenda and goals. It should also foster synergies with other international forest-related instruments and objectives and avoid unnecessary duplication or overlap.

The new Agreement may include provisions to deactivate or pause operational activities in case the share in trade in tropical timber of active and contributing members decreases below a given threshold.

Negotiations should consider the option of achieving the ITTO’s objectives through an alternative, e.g. non-treaty-based, instruments, if more appropriate.

4. Efficiency and effectiveness in ITTO governance

The new Agreement may be negotiated under the auspices of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) or an alternative governance model provided the objectives can be met in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

As the current ITTA, the new Agreement may establish various Committees and should also provide for the ITTC to have the powers to establish new Committees or dissolve existing ones.

The new Agreement could have a clear expiry date, provide for periodic review of its functioning but set no limit on the number of extensions. The maximum duration of an individual extension should be determined in the new Agreement and could be 10-15 year.

The new Agreement should include provisions for possible amendments. It should, however, not be too easy to amend the new Agreement, in particular the provisions on the rights and obligations of members.

The new Agreement should leave flexibility for optimising the frequency of the ITTCs.

The new Agreement should include provisions to enable virtual or hybrid meeting formats.

Provisions for financial management of relevant funding should ensure efficiency and transparency and minimise risk of resource mismanagement or abuse.

5. Voting system and assessed contributions

The new Agreement should include adequate provisions to encourage Parties to pay their assessed contributions.

The new Agreement should set a quorum for decision making and include adequate safeguard provisions to address situations where the ITTC does not reach the quorum.

The new Agreement should aim to avoid unnecessary polarisation between producer and consumer parties, promoting an equitable and cooperative approach.

6. The Commission shall ensure that the new Agreement contains appropriate provisions allowing the Union to be a Party thereto.

7. The Commission should endeavour to ensure that the new Agreement is consistent with relevant Union legislation and policies, as well as the Union's commitments under other relevant multilateral agreements.

8. The Commission should conduct negotiations in accordance with relevant Union legislation in force.